

DATELINE

(\$) – Admission charged

Exhibits

University Art Gallery (Dexter):
"Driven," photo retrospective by Jesse Alexander. Through Friday (Dec. 7).
Hours: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. daily plus
7-9 p.m. Wednesday.

Wednesday, December 5

ASI Craft Fair: Crafts by student artists for sale, UU 111, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Also Dec. 6.

Music: Guy Budd, BackStage Pizza, 11 a.m.

Exhibit: Industrial Technology Metals Production Exhibit, Engineering West 135, 2-6:30 p.m.

Music: Cal Poly Guitar Ensemble and SLO Guitar Trio, Davidson Music Center 218, 7 p.m.

Thursday, December 6

ASI Craft Fair: Crafts by student artists for sale, UU 111, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Music: Music Department student recital, Davidson Music Center 218, 11 a.m.

Employee Assistance Program

Learn-at-Lunch: "Handling Holiday Stress," UU 220, noon.

Friday, December 7

Music: Jill Cohn, BackStage Pizza, 11 a.m.

Brown Bag Technology Seminar: Susan Stewart (Student Academic Services) and Luanne Fose (ITS Integrated Media Services), "Making Your Web Pages Accessible and ADA-Compliant," English Building 219, noon.

Cultural Awareness Brown-Bag

Discussion: "Whose Holiday Is It?," Erhart Agriculture 241, noon.

Saturday, December 8

Music: Cal Poly Choirs' "A Christmas Celebration," Christopher Cohan Center's Harman Hall, 8 p.m. (\$)

Monday, December 10

Final Exam Period: Through Dec. 14.

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Dreamin' of a Western Christmas



Riders in the Sky will perform 'Christmas the Cowboy Way' in the Christopher Cohan Center's Harman Hall on Dec. 20. See story on page 4.

Physics professor Frankel says life on Mars still unproven

Life on Mars still remains in the realm of science fiction, not solid science, according to Physics Professor Richard Frankel and his co-authors in an article published recently in The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Frankel and other members of his research team challenge NASA scientists' much-publicized announcement in 1996 that a Martian meteorite found in Antarctica contains evidence of fossil bacteria – and thus life on Mars at some point in the planet's history.

The announcement brought a storm of excitement, publicity and controversy. In the five years since, other scientists have shown that nonbacterial contamination could explain many of the "bacterium-shaped objects" and supposedly organic chemicals found in the meteorite and cited by NASA as evidence for life.

Now Frankel and the other members of his research team have assailed the final NASA contention: that the magnetite crystals found in the Martian meteorite have three-dimensional shapes identical

to certain Earth bacteria, and different from any of those produced by any inorganic forces.

In their paper, "Magnetite Morphology and Life on Mars," Frankel and co-authors Peter Busek and Martha McCartney, Arizona State University; Rafal Dunin-Borkowski, Paul Midgley and Matthew Weyland, Cambridge University; Bertrand Devouard, Blaise Pascal University in France; and Mihalay Posfai of the University of Veszprem, Hungary, argue that the evidence for bacterial magnetite crystals on the Martian meteorite is at best ambiguous and, at worst, mistaken. They used comparisons with bacterial magnetite crystals from Morro Bay to help explain why.

The magnetite crystals in the NASA Martian meteorite are tiny, even by the standards of an electron microscope, Frankel explains. They are only 40 to 100 billionths of a meter wide.

"The technology necessary to accurately describe the three-dimensional

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Parking fees can be paid with pre-tax dollars

Effective January 2002, the CSU Pre-Tax Parking Deduction Plan will allow eligible employee groups to pay for qualified parking expenses on a pre-tax basis – before federal, state, Social Security and Medicare taxes are calculated.

Non-represented employees, including management and confidential, and employees represented by Collective Bargaining Unit 1 (physicians), Unit 4 (academic professionals), Unit 6 (skilled crafts) and Unit 8 (police) who are now paying for parking via payroll deduction will automatically be enrolled in the plan on a pre-tax basis – no action is necessary.

Employees who do not want to participate must complete a declination form available in Human Resources.

Electing this benefit on a pre-tax basis will affect taxable income and may slightly affect Social Security benefits at retirement, but will not have an impact on CalPERS retirement or any other CSU benefit.

Employees represented by CSEA units 2, 5, 7 and 9 and CFA (Unit 3) are not eligible at this time because of pending contract negotiations. Employees in those bargaining contracts will be informed if they become eligible at a later date.

Eligible employees not currently paying for parking via payroll deduction who wish to enroll should call Payroll Services at ext. 6-2605 to sign up for payroll deduction.

For more information, call Human Resources at ext. 6-2236. □

Leave solicitation

Tirza Darg, a custodian in Facility Services, has qualified for personal catastrophic leave.

Eligible state employees may donate vacation credit and sick leave to help her remain in full-pay status during an extended absence.

Those interested in donating leave should contact Edie Griffin-Shaw in Facility Services at ext. 6-5220 or by e-mail.

CSEA employees in units 2, 5, 7 and 9, Unit 4 (academic professionals), C99 (confidential), E99 (excluded), M80 (management personnel plan) and M98 (executive) may donate up to 32 hours total.

All other state employees may donate up to 16 hours of sick leave and/or vacation credits per fiscal year in increments of one hour or more. □

Obituaries

Louis Harper, 65

Crop Science Professor Louis Harper died in San Luis Obispo Nov. 21 after a long illness.

A celebration of his life will be held at 5 p.m. Jan. 19 at the Congregational Church, 11245 Los Osos Valley Road, in San Luis Obispo.

Before coming to Cal Poly in 1977, he worked as an agronomist at Montana State College, Iowa State University, the University of Kentucky and the Near East Foundation in Morocco, Africa.

Kenneth Watson, 64

Kenneth Watson, former percussion instructor and lecturer in the Music Department, died Oct. 20. Watson was an active percussionist in films and television, in concert and opera, and in chamber-music ensembles in Los Angeles.

He taught from 1994 until 2000. □

Service Awards lunch tickets to go on sale Jan. 30

Tickets to the annual Service Awards Luncheon, set for Feb. 21 in Chumash Auditorium, will go on sale Jan. 30 for \$10.

The lunch recognizes state, Foundation and ASI employees with 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 and 45 years of service.

The luncheon's theme is "Thoughts of Yesterday – Dreams of Tomorrow."

To accommodate the growing number of people who want to attend the annual event, awardees will be limited to one paying guest per letter of invitation. A list of awardees and ticket sellers will be included in an early January edition of the *Cal Poly Report*.

The menu will include a choice of boneless marinated chicken breast stuffed with apples and almonds or sautéed autumn vegetable strudel, wild-and-white-rice pilaf, braised baby carrots and fennel, baby spinach and California greens, fresh sliced fruit, breads, dessert, coffee and iced tea. □

Soil Science Department adds "Earth" to name

The Soil Science Department is now named the Earth and Soil Sciences Department, following approval by President Baker. A new interdisciplinary earth sciences major was implemented spring quarter 2000. □

Weekend volunteers needed at gift collection sites

Cal Poly's Center for Community Volunteerism and Service Learning are seeking volunteers to work weekends at gift collection sites throughout the county.

"The gift drive aims to help critically ill individuals, elderly people and families whose medical costs for caring for a disabled child put them in a position of difficulty," said Maya Andlig, coordinator of community volunteerism.

Gifts will be collected on weekends through Dec. 16 outside of Ross Dress for Less and Sears in San Luis Obispo, Spencer's Market in Morro Bay, Albertson's in Atascadero, Arroyo Grande and at 1314 Madonna Road in San Luis Obispo, and Wal-Mart in Paso Robles and Arroyo Grande.

"Every year, the giving spirit of the holiday season tends to be concentrated on children," said Stephan Lamb, director of the Center for Community Volunteerism. "Toys for Tots and the Salvation Army are just two of the organizations hosting toy drives. Cal Poly and the United Way of San Luis Obispo are inviting students, faculty and staff members to help spread the holiday cheer to the hundreds of people throughout the country who have urgent needs that nobody sees," Lamb said.

Anyone interested in volunteering to help at any of the collection locations should contact Andlig at ext. 6-6749 or mandlig@calpoly.edu. □

Whose holiday is it?

Please join the Cultural Awareness Committee's next brown-bag discussion group noon-1 p.m. Friday (Dec. 7) in Room 241 in the Erhart Agriculture Building to take a look at how the upcoming holiday season affects students of different cultures on our campus.

For more information, call Bonnie Krupp at ext. 6-5406. □

El Corral to hold sale Dec. 6

El Corral Bookstore is having a 30-percent-off sale Thursday (Dec. 6) as a way to thank the campus community. Savings apply to Cal Poly clothing and gift items; art, office and school supplies; holiday gift items; and all general reading, gift and reference books. Patrons are advised to shop early for the best selection. □

'Web accessibility' to be topic of Dec. 7 seminar

Luanne Fose of Information Technology Services' Integrated Media Services and Susan Stewart, Student Academic Services, will discuss how to make Web sites usable for people with disabilities and different learning styles in a seminar noon-1 p.m. Friday (Dec. 7).

The program, "Making Your Web Pages Accessible and ADA-Compliant," will provide electronic communication and information technology for everyone. The program, part of the Brown Bag Technology Seminar series, will be in English 219.

"This seminar is part of a campuswide awareness effort on the issue of 'Web accessibility,'" said Steve Rutland of Information Technology Services. "Web-page authors across the campus should be aware of the need to provide accessible Web pages by adhering to certain regulations of the Americans with Disability Act."

For more information, contact Susan Stewart at ext. 6-5123 or ss Stewart@calpoly.edu. □

Participants needed for 'Her-story' exhibit

Women's Programs is seeking submissions for an exhibit for the university's annual "Her-story" event scheduled in March 2002 as part of Women's History Month.

The theme for the program is "Ordinary Women, Extraordinary Impact." Anyone who knows an inspiring woman is invited to pay tribute to her by submitting an essay, poem or photograph for inclusion in the exhibit, to be displayed at the Woman of the Year Luncheon on March 6.

The exhibit provides an opportunity for community members and Cal Poly students, faculty and staff to tell the stories of women who have made an impact on their lives.

"The goal is to give recognition to the ordinary women who have extraordinary impact on our lives," said Susanne Kelley, coordinator of Women's Programs. "Take time to give something back to the women who have given you so much."

Anyone interested in participating should contact Jenn Roberts in the Women's Center at ext. 6-2600 or jnrobert@calpoly.edu by Dec. 15. □



Cal Poly Guitar Ensemble, SLO Guitar Trio to play

The Cal Poly Guitar Ensemble and the SLO Guitar Trio will perform music by Bach, Beethoven, Haydn, Handel, Mozart and others in a free recital at 7 p.m. Dec. 5 in the Davidson Music Center 218.

The guitar ensemble will play the St. Anthony Chorale by Haydn, Adagio Sostenuto from the "Moonlight Sonata" by Beethoven, Fughetta by Bach, and Fugue-VII by Handel, as well as compositions by Luis Milán, Giulio Caccini and Johann Krieger.

The seven-member ensemble will be joined for this recital by a cellist and a singer.

The SLO Guitar Trio will play "Mysterious Habitats" by Dusan Bogdanovic, Preludio by Manuel Ponce, Marchinha de Carnival" by Celso Machado, "Retrato Brasileiro" by Baden Powell, "The Easy Winners" by Scott Joplin, Prelude to Cello Suite No. 1 by Bach, "I Kiss Your Hand, Madame" by Ralph Erwin, and "La Playa" by Jo Van Wetter.

The recital is sponsored by the Music Department and College of Liberal Arts. For more information, call the Music Department at ext. 6-2406. □

Retirement receptions set

Betsy Bazzani

A retirement reception for Betsy Bazzani, class scheduling coordinator in the University Scheduling Office since 1989, will be 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Dec. 18.

Friends are invited to stop by the Fisher Science 285, to wish her well.

Bazzani's last day on campus will be Jan. 4.

Bob Dignan

A retirement reception for Bob Dignan, director of fiscal services since 1984, will be 2-4 p.m. Dec. 12 in Fisher Science 285.

Dignan will retire at the end of December after 27 years of service.

During that time, he served in various capacities, including accountant and accounting officer. □

Learn-at-lunch session to focus on holiday stress

"Handling Holiday Stress," a Learn-at-Lunch session sponsored by the Employee Assistance Program, will be noon-1 p.m. Thursday (Dec. 6) in UU 220.

"The holidays can be a time of fun and family and joyfulness – and stress," said Anne Goshen of the Employee Assistance Program. "Financial pressures, time pressures and family pressures can all affect us. Often our reality doesn't match our expectations."

"This year, more than ever, many of us want to make the season a special one. Join us to learn ways to keep the meaning in the holiday season while minimizing the stress," Goshen said.

Learn-at-Lunch programs are free and open to employees and their families.

For more information, call Goshen at ext. 6-0327. □

Craft fair set for Dec. 4-6

The ASI Craft Center will hold a Winter Craft Fair 10 a.m.-4 p.m. today and Thursday (Dec. 5-6) in UU 111.

Student artists will be selling their handmade crafts and holiday gifts. Four of the featured artists are also selling their work in galleries on the Central Coast.

For more information, call Dani Wiener, craft fair coordinator, at ext. 6-6379. □

CPR schedule

The *Cal Poly Report* is published every Wednesday during the academic year. The final fall quarter issue will be Dec. 12. Articles for that issue are due to Public Affairs by 10 a.m. today (Dec. 5). Items can be e-mailed to polynews@polymail, faxed to ext. 6-6533, or mailed to Public Affairs, Heron Hall. For more information, call ext. 6-1511. □

Physics prof Frankel . . .

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shape of such small crystals has become available only in the last few years," Frankel said. The magnetite crystals in the Martian meteorite have not yet been subjected to the new-viewing techniques.

According to Frankel, "It's still too early to say for sure what the exact shapes of the meteoritic crystals are, let alone whether they match those in bacteria."

The only microscope powerful enough to produce clear images of the magnetite crystals found in the meteorite is a relatively new piece of equipment called a transmission electron microscope (TEM), which allows researchers to see objects smaller than one billionth of a meter wide, but only in two dimensions.

Recently, scientists have coupled TEM technology with computer imaging to make experiments more precise.

Frankel and his co-authors used it to reexamine the evidence in the NASA study and contrast it with biological magnetite crystals from Earth.

Their results call into question whether the shapes of all crystals originating in the Martian meteorite found in Antarctica are accurately known. In their research, Frankel and his team demonstrate that the shapes of bacterial magnetite grains found on Earth vary more than previously thought. According to their research, the shapes and sizes differ among bacterial strains, and even within individual bacteria. That expanded variety makes it more likely that bacterial and meteoritic magnetite grains could match by simple chance, Frankel's team concluded.

However, the team did not eliminate the possibility that the Martian crystals could have a biological origin. With the advanced TEM technology now on hand, Frankel and his team plan more conclusive studies of the magnetite crystals from the Martian meteorite and several more strains of terrestrial bacteria. □

Position Vacancies

STATE: The official listing of staff and management vacancies is posted at least two weeks prior to closing dates on Cal Poly's Web site at www.calpoly.edu. (Select "Employment" from the Cal Poly links drop-down box.) As a courtesy to our on-campus employees, job vacancies also are published in the *Cal Poly Report*. Positions marked with an asterisk indicate that qualified on-campus applicants in bargaining units 2, 5, 7 and 9 will be given first consideration. Job applications must be received in Human Resources, Adm. 110, by 5 p.m. on the closing date.

#223-Facility Worker II, Facility Services, open to Cal Poly employees only, \$3,446-\$4,188. Closing date: Dec. 14.

#224-Equipment Technician (Equipment Technician III-Specialized Equipment)*, Materials Engineering, College of Engineering, half-time, \$1724.50-\$2,286. Closing date: Dec. 14.

#225-Associate Director, Alumni Relations (Administrator I), Alumni Relations, University Advancement, \$40,000-\$55,000. Closing date: Open until filled; review of applications begins Jan. 11.

#226-Nurse Practitioner*, Health Services, \$4,694-\$6,221, temporary to June 30. Closing date: Dec. 14.

#227-Admissions Officer (Student Services Professional I-B), Admissions and Recruitment, \$2,769-\$3,716, temporary to Sept. 30, 2004. Closing date: Dec. 14.

#229-Locksmith, Facility Services, \$3,949-\$4,739. Closing date: Dec. 14.

#230-Transfer Credit Coordinator (Administrative Support Coordinator II)*, Academic Records, \$2,694-\$4,045. Closing date: Dec. 21.

FACULTY Candidates are asked to contact the appropriate department office at the phone number listed for more information or to request an application. Additional information and qualifications for each position may also be obtained online at <http://www.academic-personnel.calpoly.edu>. Please submit all application materials to the department head/chair unless otherwise specified in the ad. Rank and salary are commensurate with qualifications and experience (and time base where applicable), unless otherwise stated.

#3965: Tenure-Track Assistant/Associate Professor (Nutrition), Food Science and Nutrition Department (ext. 6-2565). Closing date: March 1.

#3966: Tenure-Track Assistant/Associate Professor (Food Science), Food Science and Nutrition Department (ext. 6-2852). Closing date: March 1.

#3997: EAP Counselor (SSP AR I/II), half-time, temporary, Office of Campus Relations (ext. 6-5425). Closing date: Dec. 13. □

Riders in the Sky to give holiday show Dec. 20

Riders in the Sky, known for its comical Western musical entertainment, will perform "Christmas the Cowboy Way," a holiday show at 7 p.m. Dec. 20 in Harman Hall in the Christopher Cohan Center.

Cal Poly Arts presents the "darlings of public radio" in a concert filled with classic and original Western folk songs, smooth harmonies and slapstick comedy.

Combining comedy with sharp acoustic music in a wide musical repertoire, the group has entertained audiences for almost three decades.

Riders in the Sky has logged more than 4,000 shows, 200 national television appearances, 200 public radio shows, three television series, dozens of albums and 2.3 million miles on the road.

In 1999, the group's rendition of "Woody's Roundup" was recorded for Walt Disney/Pixar's "Toy Story 2." A companion album, "Woody's Roundup, Featuring Riders in the Sky," won a 2001 Grammy Award for Best Children's Album.

Tickets range from \$22 to \$34, with student discounts available. □

Ticket information

Tickets to the performances listed in today's *Cal Poly Report* are on sale at the Performing Arts Ticket Office 10 a.m.-6 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays. Call ext. 6-2787, or fax your order to ext. 6-6088. □

Dateline . . .

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Friday, December 14

Brown Bag Technology Seminar: James Feld (ITS Network Administration), "Internet 2: Advanced Applications for Research and Development," Kennedy Library 510, noon.

Women's Basketball: Fresno Pacific, Mott Gym, 7 p.m. (\$) □

Saturday, December 15

Commencement: The colleges of Business and Engineering, 9 a.m.; Architecture and Environmental Design and Liberal Arts, 1 p.m.; Agriculture, Science and Mathematics and the University Center for Teacher Education, 3:30 p.m., Recreation Center. □

Student projects displayed today in IT Metals Lab

The campus community is invited to see the Fall 2001 Industrial Technology Metals Production Exhibit of student projects 2-6:30 p.m. today (Dec. 5) in the IT Metals Lab, Room 135 in Engineering West. □